

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the previous listing of claims with the following listing of claims.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A guidewire for guiding an irrigating tube into and through a body cavity, comprising:

an elongate, resilient shaft adapted to pass in an interior of or along the irrigating tube; and

a bulbous enlargement arranged at a distal end of said shaft, said bulbous enlargement having a smooth, arcuate outer surface and a diameter which is at least about 0.25 inches and significantly larger than a diameter of said shaft such that when present in the body cavity, a location of said bulbous enlargement is easily identifiable, and the body cavity around said bulbous enlargement and said bulbous enlargement are together easily graspable through a wall of the body cavity.

2. (Original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein said bulbous enlargement is spherical.

3. (Currently Amended) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the diameter of said bulbous enlargement ~~has a diameter of~~ is from about 0.25 inches to about 0.75 inches.

4. (Original) The guidewire of claim 1, where said shaft is formed such that a portion of said shaft attached to said bulbous enlargement is more flexible than the remainder of said shaft.

5. (Original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein said shaft is tapered such that an end attached to said bulbous

enlargement has a smaller cross-section than an end distant from said bulbous enlargement.

6. (Original) The guidewire of claim 1, wherein said shaft comprises a central metal wire and a coil surrounding said central metal wire.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for irrigating a body cavity, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

pushing a guidewire having a bulbous enlargement at a distal end into the body cavity; then

sliding an irrigating tube over or along the guidewire, the irrigating tube having a distal end, a passage and an opening at or near the distal end which communicates with the passage; and then

directing fluid through the passage defined by the irrigating tube while the irrigating tube is situated over or along the guidewire such that the fluid flows from the passage out of the opening at or near the distal end of the irrigating tube into the body cavity to irrigate the body cavity.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the body cavity is the colon, the step of pushing the guidewire into the colon comprising ~~the step of~~ pushing the guidewire through the anal sphincter and rectum into the colon.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~ providing the bulbous enlargement with a smooth outer arcuate surface such that when the guidewire is pushed into the body cavity, contact between the bulbous enlargement and a wall of the body cavity does not cause perforation of the wall of the body cavity.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~ positioning the irrigating tube over the guidewire such that guidewire ~~passes through an interior of~~ is situated in the passage defined by the irrigating tube and the irrigating tube slides over the guidewire, ~~the fluid being directed in the passage over the guidewire.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~ guiding the guidewire through the body cavity by manipulating the bulbous enlargement.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

grasping the bulbous enlargement when present in the body cavity; and then

pulling the guidewire outward from the body cavity to cause the body cavity to compress and shorten the distance between an entrance leading to the body cavity and a treatment site at which the bulbous enlargement is positioned.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising ~~the step of~~ sizing the bulbous enlargement to have a diameter of about 0.25 inches to about 0.75 inches.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the irrigating tube is slid over the guidewire, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

sizing the bulbous enlargement to have a diameter smaller than an inner diameter of the irrigating tube; and

withdrawing the guidewire from the irrigating tube after the irrigating tube is slid over the guidewire and before fluid is directed through the passage defined by the irrigating tube.

15. (Currently Amended) A colonic irrigation device, comprising:

a guidewire having a bulbous enlargement at a distal end, said guidewire being adapted to be guided into the colon;

an irrigating tube movable relative to and over or along said guidewire, said irrigating tube including a distal end, a passage and an opening at or near the distal end which communicates with said passage, said guidewire being guidable into the colon and then said irrigating tube being moved over or along said guidewire into the colon; and

means for providing a flow of fluid through said passage defined by said irrigating tube while said irrigating tube is situated over or along said guidewire such that the fluid flows from said fluid flow providing means into said passage, through said passage and then from said passage out of said opening at or near the distal end of said irrigating tube into the colon to irrigate the colon

~~whereby said guidewire is guided into the colon and then said irrigating tube is moved over or along said guidewire into the colon.~~

16. (Original) The colonic irrigation device of claim 15, wherein said bulbous enlargement has a smooth, arcuate outer surface.

17. (Original) The colonic irrigation device of claim 15, wherein said bulbous enlargement is spherical.

18. (Original) The colonic irrigation device of claim 15, wherein said bulbous enlargement has a diameter of about 0.25 inches to about 0.75 inches.

19. (Original) The colonic irrigation device of claim 15, wherein said irrigating tube is movable over said guidewire, said bulbous enlargement having a diameter smaller than an inner diameter of said irrigating tube whereby said guidewire is removable from said irrigating tube after said irrigating tube has been slid over said guidewire and before fluid is directed through said irrigating tube.

20. (Currently Amended) The colonic irrigation device of claim 15, wherein said ~~irrigating tube defines an interior, said guidewire being is~~ arranged at least partially in said ~~interior passage~~ of said irrigating tube such that said irrigating tube slides over said guidewire, the fluid being directed by said fluid flow providing means into said passage over the guidewire.

21. (Original) The colonic irrigation device of claim 15, wherein said guidewire includes a shaft attached at one end to said bulbous enlargement, said shaft being tapered such that the end attached to said bulbous enlargement has a smaller cross-section than an end distant from said bulbous enlargement.

22. (Original) The colonic irrigation device of claim 15, wherein said guidewire includes a shaft attached at one end to said bulbous enlargement, said shaft comprising a central metal wire and a coil surrounding said central metal wire.

23. (Currently Amended) In a body cavity irrigation device including an irrigating tube through which fluid is directed and a guidewire for guiding the irrigating tube into and through a body cavity, said guidewire including an elongate, resilient shaft adapted to pass in an interior of or along the irrigating tube, the improvement comprising:

said guidewire including a bulbous enlargement arranged at a distal end of said shaft, said bulbous enlargement having a smooth, arcuate outer surface and a diameter which is at least about 0.25 inches and significantly larger than a diameter of said shaft such that when present in the body cavity, a location of said bulbous enlargement is easily identifiable, and the body cavity around said bulbous enlargement and said bulbous enlargement are together easily graspable through a wall of the body cavity.

24. (Original) The irrigation device of claim 23, wherein said bulbous enlargement is spherical.

25. (Currently Amended) The irrigation device of claim 23, wherein the diameter of said bulbous enlargement ~~has a diameter of~~ is from about 0.25 inches to about 0.75 inches.

26. (Original) The irrigation device of claim 23, where said shaft is formed such that a portion of said shaft attached to said bulbous enlargement is more flexible than the remainder of said shaft.

27. (Original) The irrigation device of claim 23, wherein said shaft is tapered such that an end attached to said bulbous enlargement has a smaller cross-section than an end distant from said bulbous enlargement.

28. (Original) The irrigation device of claim 23, wherein said shaft comprises a central metal wire and a coil surrounding said central metal wire.

29. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the irrigating tube is slid over the guidewire such that the passage has an inner boundary defined by an outer surface of a shaft of the guidewire and an outer boundary defined by an inner surface of the irrigating tube, the shaft having a smaller diameter than a diameter of the bulbous enlargement.

30. (New) The colonic irrigating device of claim 15, wherein said irrigating tube is movable over said guidewire such that said passage has an inner boundary defined by an outer surface of a shaft of said guidewire and an outer boundary defined by an inner surface of said irrigating tube, said shaft having a smaller diameter than a diameter of said bulbous enlargement.